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OFGS File No: P/3541-38

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of
TANIGUCHI, Kazunori et al

New York, New York
Date: April 21, 2006

Serial No.: 10/630,509

Group Art Unit: 3739

Date Filed: July 30, 2003

For: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

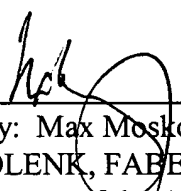
STATUS INQUIRY LETTER

Sir:

We filed the above application with the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office on July 30, 2003.

As of this date, we have not received a first Office Action from the Patent Office. Kindly advise us of the status of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,



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